## Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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## \*The Librarian and the Importer Ernst Lemcke

(Firm of Lemcke & Buechner, importers, New York)

The importer employs binderies specially trained for library work, and with large orders and ready cash commands the lowest terms. Work of any description can be done, from a buckram to an extra Turkey morocco gilt-top binding, at low prices. In binding recently some later issues of a French author, I found that my charge for binding in Paris, after a sample furnished, was by 50 per cent cheaper than the foreign agent's price who had supplied the earlier volumes. Sample bindings are kept of all unfinished or serial publications.

Books out of print and rare are constantly kept in view on card lists. Advertisements in the several trade organs are tried and lists of desiderata circulated. If unlimited time is given, good bargains can usually be made. One may advertise for a book a whole year without result; in the first month thereafter several copies may be offered.

The importer compiles and edits, often at great expense, catalogs and bulletins, and is gratified to find that his ef-

forts are appreciated.

Altogether, his business is more laborious and painstaking than that of the ordinary bookseller. Every librarian has some idea of the cost of Amer-

ican books, but few orders for foreign books, except from the largest libraries, come without preliminary correspondence which takes up much time. The looking up of data, especially when garbled titles and wrongly spelled names are given, can seldom be intrusted to clerks. Much ingenuity and book knowledge are required to correct such mistakes.

These are especially annoying when estimates are required before an order is placed. Whenever the librarian has correct and full information as to name, Christian name, title, and above all, date of publication, he should not fail to give it. The Duponts and Durands, the Meyers and Schultzes, in French and German, are as plentiful as the Browns and Smiths in English, and may take the better part of a day to be traced. The librarian has no idea how his memory is blessed if his letter comes in such shape that it can be used for the necessary notes, with plenty of margin—a line for each title—so that a clean copy can be made from it.

It is more easy to fill an order than to make a correct estimate, especially for American books, the discounts of publishers both here and abroad varying more and more. "Net" books multiply. The dealer who overlooks the little diacritical marks, stars and daggers, in the publishers' catalogs and ventures on quoting a general discount for a long list, may secure the order as against him who works conscientiously, and with fuller knowledge of facts does not promise a third off books which the

<sup>\*</sup>A paper read at the A. L. A. meeting in Philadelphia.

publisher sells with a fifth at best. But We have been told by two presidents of the former will either lose money or the United States that cheapness is the have to report many "shorts," while cause of all evil; that the demand for a the latter can make good his bid.

As a general rule, libraries which order without previous estimate, buy more cheaply. The dealer saves much time, and can and does give a liberal customer liberal terms and his full share of extra benefits and bargains. Our arrangements with our best friends are such that they can verify prices easily from publishers' lists, librarians reading stars and daggers as readily as booksellers; and this holds good for American as well as for foreign books.

The genesis of an estimate for a government library was recently told from my actual experience in the pages of the Publishers' Weekly, so that I need not detain you here with its repetition.

Prices and general terms depend upon circumstances. While Dr Cogswell's remark of 40 years ago, anent the opening of the Astor library, may be true, even from the librarian's standpoint, that it is a real degradation of books to value them by dollars and cents, no one should pay more than a book is worth in open market, and the dealer who overcharges kills the hen that lays the golden egg; it is, at best, a silver egg

Yet the craze for cheapness has gone as far as, or perhaps farther than, it should. I know of two once prosperous firms which have failed because they sold too many books to libraries. In England and Germany also, the rage for cheapness is hastening the book trade into bankruptcy. But it is a fact that the American library, through the New York importer, buys European books cheaper than the British museum, the Royal Berlin, or the Paris National library. Competition on the one side, and the size of orders on the other, have brought about this state of affairs. But the size of an order has something to do with the rate applied. An occasional order cannot and usually is not expected to be filled by fair-minded librarians, at rates which pay a small profit only if of considerable amount, he cannot refuse to a library, while

cheap coat involves a cheaper man and woman in the coat; that cheap and nasty go together, and that the cry for cheapness is un-American. The cheapness of the department stores is fast becoming a political issue, and I must say it is enough to sicken the lover of literature to see the books of our most aristocratic publishers which the legitimate dealer buys with one-third or two-fifths off, slaughtered on the bargain counters at five cents on the dollar. It certainly does not seem the right thing for large libraries to cut estimates into two, four, or ten different orders, and to merely order the cheapest single books from one firm which, in the aggregate, may have quoted the lowest figure. Let me ask you, ladies and gentlemen, how you would like the idea of our public libraries advertising for bids for the lowest-priced librarian or assistant? There are times when the librarian needs the bookseller, who in turn is the means of saving the librarian's time and money, and, generally speaking, is satisfied with profits which in any other calling requiring a large capital, broad culture, and accomplishments in ancient and modern languages, would be scorned as beggarly. As Dr Billings puts it. The librarian cannot do his work without the aid of the bookseller, but the bookseller can get along very well without the patronage of the librarian. The bookseller knows, or should know, all that the average librarian knows and a number of things besides; for example, how to make money, which no librarian knows much about. But Dr Billings forgets to say how well the librarian knows how to prevent the bookseller from profiting by his, in this one respect, supposed superior knowledge.

It remains to touch upon the importer's relation with publishers, with whom he must needs keep on good terms. He must shoulder losses for returns of duplicates ordered by mistake, which some publishers are very unaccommo- C. A. Dana's proposition to the paper dating to the bookseller.

underselling the dealer.

Some are more liberal than others. and recognize the value of the retailer, the great German firms declining orders from private buyers; and one London firm, at least, which I take pleasure to name, Fisher Unwin, prints on his lists the notice that on application he will furnish the address of the dealer through whom his books can be had. There are others—there certainly is

one-not so disposed.

of you have made your own experiaccounts which I have examined, professedly showing foreign net prices with a good commission added, and all expenses charged to the American library, displayed a great elasticity of discounts. The American importer, whom you meet socially and whose character you know, would find such policy ruinous to his business. Mr remarks from an article in the Decem-Andrews some years ago published his ber Nineteenth Century of last year: experiences as to the advantages of the agent, with chapter and verse, in the and one always capable of develop-Library Journal, so that I need not go into particulars here.

The importer does close figuring in the interest of his library clients, to supply the cheaper edition, if there is an American edition in the market, as compared with a London edition imported free of duty. His services give to libraries the advantages of greater promptness, one single account for all purchases of one responsible firm, within easy reach for correspondence, returns, claims, remittances; prompt ac- who follow literature as a profession, knowledgment of all orders and the and of whom Froude has said, It happossibility of examining new foreign pens to be the only occupation in which books before purchasing. I claim, nat-

urally, also lower terms.

believe, we shall never attain when Mr and the importer.

makers at a recent banquet in New The publisher should refrain from York will have application to librarian and importer: Cash down and higher prices. Neither would such terms be If I send an order unreasonable. abroad today, the cash to pay for it must be ready in my European offices, laid down there 60 days ago. The books are bound, and the binder expects cash. All expenses - packing, freight, insurance, customs brokerageare cash. My clerk hire and store rent are cash. Yet it is on an average four to six months before the check for the The New York importer, as against bill comes back to me, involving a loss the foreign agent for American libra- of two per cent or three per cent inries, is a theme which it would not be terest on so much money. Even for becoming in me to enlarge upon. Most periodical subscriptions which are invariably paid cash in advance, a couple ments; but I may say this much: that of months' interest is in most cases lost, and often more. Still, the New York importer wants your trade, small as the profits are; for there is little or none of the element of risk connected with most other business transactions, and it flatters his pride to supply large or small libraries and many of them.

Let me conclude with Mr Shaytor's

I am fully convinced that the book-New York importer over the foreign seller who has a well-informed mind ment, who takes an interest in his trade because he loves books, and who has business capabilities worthy of his trade, is bound to make more than a bare living. He will not now, probably, leave a fortune behind him, but he will have the satisfaction of being associated with the greatest minds of his age, as well as with that distinguishing characteristic of a nation's intelligence, its literature. Booksellers may console themselves by being classed with those wages are not given in proportion to the goodness of the work done. Mr There is one more thing I wish to Froude might just as truthfully have mention. That state of perfect bliss, I said instead of littérateurs, the librarian

### Value of a Trained Librarian in a of a village library is usually some one Small Library

Julia A. Hopkins

Rochester (N. Y.) public library

Fortune has never given me the opportunity of visiting a village library which was under the management of a trained librarian. But often the absence of an article proves its value more clearly than its presence could; and so the things which seemed to me lacking or wrong in the management of the village libraries I have seen, have suggested to me a few ways in which the value of technical training for the librarian would make itself felt upon the library itself and the com-

munity in which it is situated.

The value of training for the man or woman who shall take charge of a large city library is now so firmly established that no one thinks of discussing the question. If it is true that technical training is essential for the headship of a large library, why is it not equally necessary for that of a small library? Trained service is always of greater value than untrained service, be the sphere great or small. If a woman argued from the standpoint that, because the house she was to take charge of had only seven rooms instead of 20. she needed to know nothing of cooking, sweeping, and the other details of household work, I am afraid that her house and her family would suffer for her ignorance. So in many departments of library work, the accident of size makes little or no difference; the work is precisely the same. The difference lies in the fact that the head of a large library oversees and directs the work done by others, where the village the work himself. In the distinctly professional duties, such as the ordering, classifying, and cataloging of books, there is a difference only in amount between the greater and the less. And it is precisely these professional duties of which the person untrained in library

whose literary ability, knowledge of books, etc., has recommended him to the trustees of the library. Perhaps in some instances he is a college student or graduate. Very often, too, the executive or business ability of the man has had a good deal to do with his appointment. But even granting that he is well equipped in these three particulars, that he has college training united to real business and literary ability, see how much he lacks in the knowledge and power to make his library a successful institution and have it exert the influence in the community that every library should.

It is inevitable that in starting a library there should be some mistakes made; but with a trained librarian in charge, these mistakes will be fewer in number. For example, what does the novice know of classification? He realizes that the books, for convenience in use, must be grouped in classes. If he has had the use of a good library (as a college student would) he has some idea as to how the class divisions are made, and knows also that there must be some sort of notation for the classes. Necessity being the mother of invention, he contrives some plan for bringing together books on the same subject. But with the addition of books to the library and the demand which growth makes, he finds that constant changes have to be made in order to get books into their right places; and then some day he awakens to the fact that there is some perfectly well-known and adopted system of classification which will answer all his purposes, and be a great deal more satisfactory in its adaptability to the needs of his library librarian must, in many cases, do all of than the one he has been struggling to evolve. Then he exclaims in despair: If I had only known of that at the beginning! He feels that the hours which he has spent in rearranging his books, taking them out of one class and putting them into another, although hours of such hard work, are in reality work is in most cases wofully ignorant. so many hours of wasted time. And The person selected to take charge he is right; for every minute spent in

Not only that, but it is unnecessary expense; and one of the most important things which a small library has to consider is economy.

There are numberless ways in which the trained librarian can economize where the librarian without training is unaware that economy can be practiced. For instance, in the ordering of books he has learned what, where, and how to buy. He knows in what proportion the classes should stand to each other in order to make the most useful library for his village. He knows from what firms to buy certain classes of books. He has been trained in the use of second-hand and auction catalogs, and so is all the time on the watch for bargains. where the man who has known books simply as literature, and not as a business commodity, would perhaps fail entirely to get what he wanted, or pay twice as much for it as he need. Either result would be a loss.

Again, as to taking proper measures to keep track of his books, by making a record of every one that comes into his care, how many village librarians would put down anything beyond the author's name and book title? Even this is not always done. Last summer I went into a village library of some 3000 volumes. It was a well-selected library, the librarian being a man of a good deal of culture and literary taste. He told me that he bought once or twice a year, and running my eye over the titles I saw that he was getting the best books for a library of that size. The library was in constant use, and yet the only record of the books that had been bought for the last few years was the file of bills. These were thrown loosely in a drawer among a lot of waste papers. As far as books went, it was an unusually good working library for a village to have; but as for any systematic care of the books, it had no more than most private libraries. The books were purchased and put on the shelves; that was all. In case of loss by theft or carelessness, discovery would

unnecessary work is so much lost time. by fire, the insurance could not be claimed.

> As to accession books, how many village librarians keep one? How many even know what one is? I am sure if I had been asked two years ago, What is an accession book and what is its purpose? I should have replied, I haven't the faintest idea.

> But I will not take time to enumerate all the different departments of library work, for most of you here today are so familiar with them that it is unnecessary. I think you will all agree with me that any system is better than none at all. The system may be complicated and unsuited to the library in question, but it is a solid basis to work on, and so an economy for both the library and librarian. Another thing to be said is that the person who has been trained in the comparison of different systems, both as he has used them himself and as he has observed their success or failure in different libraries, will not be apt to select one for his own use that will be very much unsuited to his library. His training will also show him just where and how he must modify the system to suit the peculiar needs of his library. He starts out with the knowledge of just what he has to do and how he is going to do it, where the untrained librarian only gradually awakens to the full consciousness of what he has undertaken, and feels overwhelmed and disheartened at the difficulties which loom up before him.

Is it not of value to the library that its librarian should know how best to expend the money given him to use? that he should not have to regret hours of time lost over useless experiments? Surely if training teaches a librarian a wise expenditure of money and an economy of time, then training must be

All that has been considered thus far has revealed the value, to the library itself, of training for the librarian; but what benefit would come to the public, who are to have the use of the library?

The old idea that a librarian's duty, only be made by chance; in case of loss after having once placed a book on a

once in so often (not very often sometimes, I fear) has long since been exploded. Nowadays the librarian lives, not to keep his books on the shelves, unused and therefore comparatively valueless, but to give the books out freely and generously; and not only to give the books to the people, but to

bring the people to the books.

Some one has said that a library is, after all, very much what its librarian makes it. There is no question whatever that the usefulness of the library does depend to a great extent upon its librarian, and if he lacks the special career of a librarian is and must be a specialty. It is not everyone who is competent to stand behind the desk even of a village public library, and intelligently satisfy the demands made upon it. The untrained librarian may have greater personal knowledge. He may be able often to answer a question himself where the trained librarian will be obliged to turn to a reference book. But he will not be able so to answer every question; and then the value of training becomes manifest. The trained librarian has at his command bibliographical apparatus of which the average scholar is totally ignorant. The skilled librarian can often in a few minutes' time find a fact or a date which the scholar has spent hours of patient search for. He also knows what sources are worthless and secondary, or out of date, and consequently to be avoided. Thus he will be able to save himself a great deal of valuable time.

The village librarian has one great advantage over the city librarian, in that he very often has an intimate knowledge of the people for whom he is to work. In many cases he has been born and brought up among them; he knows the personal and family history is of the greatest assistance to him in thought. his work for them, and in helping him

shelf, was to keep it there and dust it meet the peculiar needs of the people. He has a great field before him, for the ordinary village population has very little real literary life and activity. A small number have their own private libraries, their magazine clubs and literary circles, but by far the larger proportion have almost nothing beyond the daily newspaper and perhaps the weekly sermon, to give them anything in the line of intellectual stimulus and furnishing. There are no free concerts and lectures for them to listen to; nostereopticon exhibitions for them to see; no art galleries for them to visit. They have none of these things, all of abilities required, the library and the which tend to lead them, unconsciously community have to suffer for it. The to themselves, toward the point where they will begin to reach out after knowledge and strive to get hold of it. These are the ones for whom the librarian will begin to work. Such people have noidea of what a library is. They need to be attracted to it, and their first visit made so enjoyable that they will want to come again. They must be gradually shown how to make use of the library, and so helped to feel a sense of ownership and pride in it. In this way they will come to understand that it is the place for them to turn to, whether they are in search of help or mental recreation and diversion.

If the librarian attempts to do any work with the public school, he will discover another mountain of labor. The average teacher in a small town, even if she is a graduate of a normal school, has very crude ideas of the use of a public library and of the important part which libraries are playing in educational life elsewhere. She has noconception of the power for good which lies in a well-selected library, and the assistance it may be to her in the education of her pupils; helping them not only to form the habit of reading, but also to learn the use of indexes, reference books, catalogs, etc., and so teachof many of them; and this knowledge ing them independent research and

If the librarian is to meet the wants: to determine in just what direction the of his community and do any true mislibrary shall be developed in order to sionary work, he must have time for

how can he do this if his days are filled to overflowing with the routine work of his library? He would have his hands full simply attending to the wants of the people, answering their questions, endeavoring to divine what they want, and seeing that they get it. But to do this he must have his mind so freed from the perplexing details of technical work, that he may meet those who come to him for assistance with an unpreoccupied and cheerful manner, helping them out of their difficulties as quickly as possible, and doing it with such evident pleasure and sympathy that they will feel encouraged to come to him again. I do not mean to imply that the untrained librarian is lacking in sympathy for those who come to him for help. On the contrary, his nature may be much more sympathetic and helpful than that of the other. But it is impossible for him, if driven to death by the press of work and harassed by doubts as to what he should do next, or as to the wisdom of this or that method of doing it, to meet the constant interruptions which come, with the evenness of temper and with the cheerfulness that he would if his work were planned with some sort of system and its routine moving smoothly along.

Then is it not of value to the library that its librarian should be skilled in the use of reference books in order that he may answer the thousand and one questions put to him, with the least possible loss of time? Is it not of value to the library that he be free enough from the push of work to meet the public with that sympathetic courtesy which the public always expects? Is it not of value to both the library and the public that he should have time to reach out and draw in those to whom the library will be the greatest benefit?

Thus alone can the library be at all what it is meant to be. Thus alone can it exert the broad and high and ennobling influence in the community and be the power for good against evil, that the true librarian hopes and aims to make it.

### making and carrying out his plans; and Recommendations for Library Posihow can he do this if his days are filled tions

Every librarian of any prominence is frequently asked to recommend some relative, friend, or mere acquaintance for a position in a library. Though he may know perfectly well that the request comes from one who has no special training or experience for the peculiar work, not a few people forget the injustice they are doing their associates in the profession, and write a more or less glowing letter as requested. Applicants often tell me that my own opinion will have great weight, and I always reply that if it has such weight it is with those who know that I have made it a rule for 20 years never to give a recommendation for a library position without personal knowledge of the candidate's fitness. No man with any proper sense of honorable dealing will put into a letter of recommendation any statements which he does not have reason to believe strictly true. To imply that he is familiar with a man's library qualifications, when in fact he knows nothing whatever personally about them, is to practice gross deceit on some fellow librarian who may be influenced by his letter to make an unfortunate appointment. If he limits his letter to glittering generalities, or says, as he is bound to in honor, that he has no personal knowledge of the candidate's special qualifications for librarianship, it can only do him more harm than good, for it shows that the candidate must have asked for a recommendation from a man whom he knew could not truthfully state that he had special fitness for the work. Certainly no one would write such a letter unless it was requested, and a wise librarian or trustee would feel that commendations of this kind were boomerangs indicating the unwisdom of making the appointment. In such cases I tell applicants that any letter I can write truthfully will do them more harm than good, and that the greatest kindness is to say nothing at all.

Librarians have been for the past 20

ments as librarian should be limited to of those whose opinion would be valuthose who had qualified themselves able. Men who give these careless, specially by study of the profession, misleading testimonials are lacking in and as a rule had supplemented such loyalty to our common profession and study by successful experience in some in honesty toward our colleagues. subordinate position. We are stultifying ourselves before the public when we attach our names to recommendations which are intended to be practically requests that appointments shall be made not in conformity with the principles we have advocated. A man may have been one of the best teachers, or most efficient clergyman or business man in the community, and yet be totally unfitted for librarianship. Let us say, if we say anything at all, the truth, telling what he has done as a clergyman or a teacher or a business man, without expressing the opinion that he must therefore be a good librarian. We may properly say, if we believe it, that from our knowledge of Mr A as a successful teacher, we believe he has qualities that would enable him after proper study and experience to succeed in librarianship; but I regret to say that large numbers of recommendations which have come under my eye have not been written with regard to these proper restrictions, but were evidently given without much thought by people who find it easier to write a complimentary letter than they do to state the reasons why it is impractica-

Practically the same objections apply, though with perhaps greater force, to testimonials given to those who have been employed in one's own library and have not been successful. In sympathy with a worthy man or woman we are tempted sometimes to write letters that conceal the truth, conveying a false lieve the person efficient and a desirgreat gain if those whose opinions are

sympathy and good will.

years persistently urging that appoint- as a plea for greater care on the part

MELVIL DEWEY.

### Tribute to Dr William Rice

Tuesday evening, November 16, a most interesting and impressive service was held in memory of our late librarian, Dr William Rice. It was three months almost to a day, since his death, and the directors of the library association planned and carried out most beautifully this tribute of respect and affection to their librarian of 36 years' faithful and continuous service. Addresses by the president and other members of the association were delivered, interspersed with orchestral music of a fitting character. The service was held in the lecture rooms of the art museum, which owes its existence in great measure to the energy and interest of Dr Rice.

It is not often that so much of the intellectual growth of a city can be traced to the influence of one man, and it is pleasant to see such influence recognized and honored by his fellow townsmen. His life is an example and an encouragement to other members of his profession. Such faithful and enthusiastic work must meet, sooner or later, with confidence and appreciation on the part of the community; and the realization of this fact must encourage and stimulate other faithful workers in MARY MEDLICOTT. the same field.

The beautiful cut of Trinity church impression to the reader that we be- at Stratford-on-Avon in November Public Libraries was loaned through able member of a staff. It would be a the kindness of Pratt Institute Monthly, to which grateful acknowledgment is valued on library matters would make made. Librarians will find a very interit an invariable rule not to color or esting account of the European trip cover up the truth because of personal written by Mary L. Davis, of Pratt institute library staff, in the October I send this note to Public Libraries number of Pratt Institute Monthly.

### Traveling Libraries on Railroads

"Ye olden time" idea of library administration was to keep the public from the books. The up-to-date idea is to take the books to the people. The branch and the traveling libraries are evidences of the latter and more generous plan.

As early as 1860 the Boston and Albany railroad provided a library for the use of the employés of that road. Books from this library were delivered by train service to the readers along the line of the road. This library, consisting of about 3000 volumes, was moved from Boston to Springfield, Mass., in 1881. This seems to have been the first railroad library in this country, also the first to deliver books

to its patrons.

In 1884 the B. & O. R. R. started a library for the use of its employés, which now contains 14,000 volumes. This is the largest railroad library in the United States. In 1896 nearly 40,000 books were drawn by 2500 readers. The usefulness of this library is not only extensive, but the quality of the reading is exceedingly good, there being only 53 per cent of the books drawn that are classed as fiction. The railroad branch of the Young Men's Christian Association is availing itself of the opportunity of benefiting its members by offering them the privileges of wellselected libraries. In the 127 railroad associations in the United States there are over 50,000 volumes. The association at New York has 8000 volumes; Clifton Forge, Va., 3000; West Albany, N.Y., 3000; Hoboken, N.J., 2000; the remaining associations having from 100 to 1000 volumes. Several of the larger libraries deliver books by train service very much in the same manner as the B. & O. railroad library. The association in New York delivered during 1896 5700 volumes to readers at stations and other associations along the line of the road. This plan of delivering books can hardly be put in the class with Traveling libraries, since the books are not delivered as selected collections. It is

certainly a good example of how books may be taken to the people where transportation is gratuitous.

The association uses the library as a means to an end. Its purpose is to make men better, and, if possible, Christians, by offering at a small price desirable privileges, such as sleeping rooms, baths, lunch rooms, gymnasiums, social rooms, entertainments, lectures, educational classes, libraries and reading rooms. Thus the library serves the same purpose in the association as it does in a university. The books are selected to meet the demands of the educational work, and as a rule the educational work of the association is planned to meet the requirements of the men in the different departments of railroad employment.

The privileges of the library in the New York association are extended to all the associations on the New York Central railroad and leased lines, and the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad. The secretaries at these several associations act as agent, and are responsible for the care and return of books. The books are charged to the association, the secretary making the individual charge. Requisition blanks are used by the readers not drawing books at the desk. The requisition is kept in the book, in the book-card pocket. No special charge is made to members of other railroad associations, but a special library membership is offered for the benefit of men at stations where no association exists. A nominal charge of one dollar a year is made.

Very few books are lost in transit, notwithstanding the fact that the manner in which baggagemen handle packages in their charge is quite as detrimental to books as to the average Saratoga.

A printed label is used for the sending and returning of books, so that the chance of loss is brought to a minimum. Very large bundles are usually sent by express, "dead head."

W. F. STEVENS.

Single number

20 cents

### Public Libraries

Librar	Bur	eau	-	-		-	-	Pub	lishers
M. E.	AHER	N							Editor
		CONT	RIBU	TING	ED	TOR	s:		
J. C. DA	NA	ELN	END	ORF.				Denv	er P. L. Buffalo
H. L. EI F. M. CI MELVIL	MENDO	RF			••••		s	Buffa t Lou	is P. L.
MELVIL CAROLIN CAROLIN	E H. G	ARLA	ND			D	over	(N. E	I.) P. L.
F. H. HI	P. IAN	IES		Oste	rho	it F.	L	hicas Wilke	go P. L.
ALICE B GEORGE	Type	GER,	Direc	Dre	kel l	Insti	tute,	Phila	delphia
T. L. Mo	NTGOM	ERY,	Wagi	ier I	nstit	ute	f Sc	ience	library,
MARY W	. PLUN	MER,	Dire	ctor	libr	ary o	lass	. 130	rooklyn
J. C. Roy	VELL	U	niver	sity	of C	alifo	rnia	librai	y. erkelev
KATHAR	NE L.	SHAR	P, Di	recto	r St	ate l	brar Cn	y sch	
Subscrip	otion							\$1	a year
Five con	nies to	one	libr	271/		1	100	44	a year

THIS number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES finishes Volume 2, and the last number before the new year. We hope our readers have enjoyed reading the magazine during the year, as much as we have enjoyed preparing the material which has gone to them from month to month. With the new volume we expect to follow out plans which have been somewhat disarranged by the trip abroad this year, an interruption which will not occur again for a long time. We wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the many kind friends who have helped us by counsel and contributions, and we ask for a continuance of the kindly interest which has been such a help to us in the year which is closing.

One of the noteworthy things in the recent meeting of the Ohio library association was the considerable number of library trustees present at all the sessions. And they were not only present, but they took on themselves part of the responsibility for the success of the meeting. They were all active, clearheaded business men, who, from daily contact with the world and its affairs, library meeting has only were able to keep all propositions on a strictly business basis and stripped of stop when they reach it.

all useless theoretical sentimentality. It is well worth the while of those in charge of library association meetings to try to awaken a greater interest in the work of the associations on the part of trustees, and to bring into the meetings a larger number of them than has been found there heretofore. Such a thing will produce a more sympathetic cooperation between library staffs and trustees as each comes to realize the extent and power of the other's work; and not only that, but it will tend to elevate the plane of the work in the community, and thus secure friendly interest from those outside the library who at present are indifferent to its plans and prospects.

From observation as a visitor at several library meetings recently, we are led to remark that good time and space are sometimes taken up profitlessly by placing on programs those who, engaged in other lines of work, are just beginning to take an interest in library matters. We do not mean to say that it is not profitable to have others come into the meeting and take part in the proceedings. It often is a very good thing. But those in charge of making up the program should be sure of their man or else define the ground he is to cover. School people and others who, if they would follow the lines of their own work as it relates to the subject in hand, would be both interesting and helpful, get up and deal out platitudes worn threadbare, about what librarians ought to do; warn them against doing what they have no idea of doing, or advise them to begin something they have been doing for years. We have heard speakers talk for a half hour in just such a strain without leaving a single helpful or inspiring thought in the minds of their hearers; and there is just reason why the latter should pronounce the meeting where such speakers are heard, stale and unprofitable. See to it, therefore, that the program of your library meeting has only the names of those who will talk to the point and

### The Library Association of the United Kingdom

The 20th meeting of the L. A. U. K. assembled in the lecture hall of the Royal society of arts in John st. Adelphi, London, October 20-22, but was not as well attended as most of the previous annual meetings, owing, perhaps, to the fact that the busy winter sessions had begun in most of the provinces and prevented librarians from being present, and also because the international conference had exhausted the energy and time of many of the others. Moreover, the Savage club had genermasculine members of the society, and being just across the road, might possibly have accounted for the sparsely atmy obscure self) present at the meetings, and the rarity of such a sight was obvious by the remarks of speakers, for "Mr Chairman and gentlemen" had become so customary a commencement that it never occurred to them a woman proceedings, until the last day, when the Miss Verneys, who are interested ters. in the village libraries of Claydon Bucks, were present. To judge by the appearance of the meetings one would think, like snakes in Ireland, there were no women librarians in England, and at present they are as x to the community, though in a few libraries they do exist as assistants in a more or less minor capacity. As I write I can only recall one woman, Fantine Smith, who has a librarianship of any note in the three united kingdoms.

have been expected from the president, very interesting and informing. He threw a searchlight back and forward on to the past and future of the society, which he hinted would soon be granted a royal charter, and he touched on modern book collectors and the value of is satisfactory. them. By the way, he called attention to a matter of interest to all librarians, was omitted, its author being absent. which should be taken to heart by li- Mr Steele therefore read his article on

brary trustees and committees in whatsoever community—i. e., that the laborer is worthy of his hire, yet hitherto has not been meted out his remuneration under this principle.

Dr Garnett next gave an address on Panizzi, the great librarian whose connection with the British museum was of so much interest.

Sidney Webb's paper was of great interest and weight, his connection with the Technical education board of the London county council, and his interest in all sociological subjects, being widely known.

Mr Ballinger, of Cardiff, had an inously extended its hospitality to all the teresting paper on that most important matter of the bringing together the schools and libraries.

Other papers were read, among them tended meetings. As usual, only on a being Mr Briscoe's, on the Berlin pubfew occasions were any ladies (except lic library, which actually is enlightened enough to employ a woman as librarian. Photos of the library and its custodian were handed round amid general interest, the woman librarian being somewhat like the dodo, an extinct species, to the English mind could possibly take any interest in the though on the continent there appears to be a more liberal view of such mat-

The keeping of public records and local matter was touched on by Mr Mason, of St Martin's, in a short address of great practical value, and another practical paper on the issuing of periodicals by means of yet another indicator specially designed therefor, was put forth by Mr Roberts. The titles of periodicals are printed on blocks of wood set in black frames in movable but alphabetical order; in the black frame are holes into which against The annual address was, as might the titles fit pegs, black one end and we been expected from the president, white the other. When the white end is inserted against a title it shows the periodical required is out. By this means no periodicals are put out on the tables, where they get disarranged and worn out, and the saving effected

The first paper of the second session

president wisely deferring the discus-

sion till all three were read.

The discussion, if such it could be called, plainly showed—and indeed many of the speakers admitted—a want of knowledge on the subject. One gentleman wisely remarked it was a pity that no one seemed to have read the preface to Mr Dewey's work.

After lunch Mr Dent gave an amusing paper on misleading and repetitive titles, and was followed by Mr Turner, of Brentford, who eulogized the bulletin-catalog method adopted so widely in America, and copied first by Mr Brown, of Clerkenwell, after his Amer-

ican tour.

Mr Formby, of the reference department of the Liverpool public library, read next a long but interesting paper on his experiences, and at the close was followed by an extremely clever and valuable paper which, owing to the lateness of the hour and sparseness of the audience, had to be considerably curtailed, on the English patent law. Mr Prosser, late of the patent office, announced that he had made a list of specifications relating to different localities, having considered it an important matter that the trade records of any place should be preserved with its other records. Being a native of Birmingham he had been interested to find how large a number had been sent in from this town; he had been able to trace obsolete trades to towns by means of his researches; for instance, having discovered a specification for the manufacture of lace in a little place in the Isle of Wight, which as everyone knows is not known as a lace-making district.

A subject index to English literature was advocated by A. Colgreave, of West Ham public libraries, London. Such an index, chiefly concerned with American literature and subjects of interest to Americans, had been produced in the United States, but in England nothing of the kind exists. A valuable annual index to English periodicals is published by the Review of Reviews.

Scientific libraries, after which the The speaker hoped to see an index de-Classification papers followed, the voted to English books and English subjects produced under the auspices

of the library association.

Friday morning was occupied by the highly interesting discussion on Mr Barrett's paper. An end paper with the municipal arms of Glasgow, used for recasing the books, was handed round for inspection. A woman binder does all the recasing of books on the library premises, this being an eco-nomical practice.

After this the village libraries had place, and an entertaining paper was read by Sir Edmund Verney, whose parish was one of the first to adopt and avail themselves of the Libraries act.

An important though terse paper on the subject of training the librarian and the inducement at present held out to prepare for the work was read in the regretted absence of its author, M. F. Campbell, of the British museum, by proxy. Owing to the necessity of adjourning for the photographing of the conference members, the discussion of this paper was greatly curtailed.

After it followed a paper by a veteran member, Mr Gilbert, whose knowledge of the subject on which he spoke, together with the witty manner in which he had embodied his remarks, evoked

great applause.

The afternoon session was taken up by a paper from Mr Clarke, who had dipped into bygone ages for his information, which was most instructive.

After his paper came a few remarks from Mr Axon, read by proxy, in which he made some remarkable statements as to the average of the English literary output statistically compared with that of other countries, and stated that the titles of many books and papers were not recorded at all; also that the British museum authorities were approached on the subject of undertaking the work in 1875, but declined. The statistical facts as to output were as follows: India, Russia, and Italy have a larger output than England, and Russia than the United States.

Mr Anderton's paper was abridged

and read by proxy. Mr Scarse's paper on old Birmingham library was not read, but being in print was distributed to members, as was also Mr Batsford's on the formation of a reference library of ornament and decorative arts, an extremely valuable contribution which unfortunately had to be abbreviated owing to pressure of time.

A useful statement concerning Yorkshire village libraries was made by Frank Curzon, and read by proxy. He stated that 520 parish councils in Yorkshire had been approached on the subject of adopting libraries, but not one

response had come to hand.

The meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks, and the members dispersed to meet again for the last time on the occasion of the 20th annual meeting at the dinner held at the Hotel Cecil and largely attended by members M. S. R. J. and guests.

### A. L. A. Publishing Section

Printed analytical cards for society and other serial publications

With the cooperation and support of the Harvard university, Columbia university, Boston public, John Crerar, and New York public libraries, the Publishing section will begin the issue in January, 1898, of printed cards for articles contained in certain current society publications and other scientific, archæological, historic, and economic serials both in English and in foreign languages. The list of publications to be analyzed will be printed as soon as it is completed. The cards will differ from those now issued for current books in not suggesting subject headings, references, or classification numbers, but each title will be made sufficiently explicit by the addition, when necessary, of a note or of explanatory words in brackets, so that the subject of the article shall be clear.

Two cards to each title will be furnished, one for an author entry, the other for subject entry. Upon the upper margin of the latter may be written a subject heading to agree with the systo be inserted. Additional cards may be had at a low price if a library can ordinarily use three, four, or more cards

per title to advantage.

Subscriptions will be received 1) for the whole set of cards, or 2) for the cards for articles in specified periodicals. To subscribers for the whole set the price will be not more than \$1.50 per hundred cards, or 3 cents per title, while extra cards can be furnished at 40 cents per hundred.

To subscribers for the cards for articles in specified periodicals the price will probably be not more than \$2.25 per hundred cards, or 41/2 cents a title, with extra cards at 50 cents per hundred. All of these figures will be reduced if a large enough number of subscriptions is received, and it may easily result that the cost of the cards will not be over \$1 per hundred.

From 100 to 150 publications will be analyzed to begin with, and from 3000 to 4000 titles may be expected in the

course of the year.

A more detailed statement will be printed shortly and distributed to all likely to be interested.

Index to subject headings

This useful work having been now for some time out of print, the Publishing section will issue a new and revised edition to be edited by G. M. Jones, of the Salem public library, C. A. Cutter, of the Forbes library, Northampton, and by Edith D. Fuller, of the Episcopal theological school library, Cambridge, and instructor in dictionary cataloging at the library school, Albany.

All who have used the book are asked to send in to Mr Jones at once any corrections and additions that have occurred to them, and any suggestions they may like to make for its improve-

ment.

Portrait index

The work on this is well under way. All of Mr Samuel's material has been copied, many offers of help have been received, and cards from collaborators are coming in daily; but there are still many valuable books which must not tem of the catalog in which the card is be omitted, and more help is wanted in

order to bring these in. The work of indexing is not difficult, and anyone who has had some practice in library work, particularly in dealing with proper names, as in cataloging, will find it interesting and pleasant. Cooperation is earnestly requested from all who can spare the time. Suggestions of books which ought to be indexed, which the editor may have overlooked, will be welcome. It is desired to get all the material collected this winter, and to begin to print next summer. Offers of help should be addressed to the editor, W. C. Lane, of the Boston athenæum, or to Nina E. Browne, assistant secretary of the Publishing section at the Boston athenæum.

Books for boys and girls

Miss Hewins' brief list of Books for boys and girls was printed last spring, and the Publishing section would like to see it spread very widely over the country. It is intended for parents and teachers rather than for children themselves, and we hope that libraries and school boards will like to provide it for free distribution. With this in view, the price has been set at \$3 per hundred, or in quantities of 500 or over at \$2 a hundred. The price of single copies is 10 cents.

#### Two-book System

In the very interesting May number of Public Libraries the first article upon the Two-book system, by Mrs Sarah Miner, states that this system was first suggested by Charles Knowles Bolton in 1894. It is a small matter, but as a lover of historical accuracy, I should like to call your attention to the fact that the same thing was proposed and strongly urged in a paper by Mr MacAlister at the meeting of the Library association held in Aberdeen in September, 1893, the said paper having been accepted by the committee in the previous June. The idea was warmly taken up in this country, and has, I believe, been found to work well in every place where it has been tried.

Faithfully yours,
ARCHIBALD CLARKE.

London, N. W.

### Library Meetings

California—The regular meeting of the library association of central California was held in the rooms of the Wells-Fargo library, November 17, President Rowell presiding.

Mr Teggert paid a glowing tribute to the late Justin Winsor, and introduced the following resolution, which was

unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Library association of central California expresses its deep sorrow and sincere regret at the loss to the library profession, of Mr Justin Winsor, late librarian of Harvard university.

The president then introduced J. B. Stovall, librarian of Wells-Fargo library, who gave a brief but interesting account of this prosperous association. It was organized in 1890 with 60 members, is self-supporting, and now has a library of 2700v. and a subscription list of 72 periodicals, taking from one to 20 copies each.

In 1893 a system of traveling libraries was inaugurated, and boxes of books and periodicals are sent to the outside agents, carriage free both ways. The monthly circulation by this means

alone, is now 900v.

The rate of subscription is 25 cents monthly, and is open to employes of the company. The library is managed by a board of trustees elected annually by the members, the only exception being that the president of the company is ex-officio president of the library. The company furnish the rooms and generally exercise a paternal supervision of the destinies of the library. Altogether, this corporation deserves the warmest praise for their generous encouragement and support of this most useful association.

The question of A Pacific coast copyright depository, was discussed by F. J. Teggert, who gave a brief historical sketch of the copyright system. He was followed by H. C. Nash, who in closing offered this resolution, which

was adopted:

Resolved. That this association deems

the establishment of additional "copyright depositories in the United States a matter of the highest importance to all interested in the spread of knowledge and culture; therefore be it

Resolved, That our representatives in congress be requested to use their best endeavors to obtain the establishment of such additional depositories, and especially of a depository on the Pacific coast.

A committee was appointed to bring the matter to the attention of the California delegation to congress.

In his paper on Calderon and his times, C. K. Jones gave a brilliant, sympathetic study of this great dramatist. Mr Jones prefaced the paper with a summary of the social, political, and literary conditions in Spain at that time, and in his treatment showed a fine critical taste and judgment, as well as a thorough knowledge of the subject.

A. M. JELLISON, Sec. Chicago-The November meeting of the library club was held at the Hammond Theological library, on Thursday, November 4. After a brief inspection of the library the meeting was called to order by Pres. Hopkins. The president announced that the executive committee had appointed C. B. Roden secretary of the club, in place of Miss Mann, resigned. The committee also had appointed a committee on permanent headquarters, to consist of Messrs. Meleney, Sudduth, and Hild. The following persons were elected to membership in the club: W. F. Cooper, Hervey White, M. E. Swarts, Alice

W. W. Bishop, of the library of Garrett Biblical institute, read the first paper of the evening, his subject being The Problem of classifying the library of a theological school. Mr Bishop indicated the shortcomings of both the Decimal and Cutter schemes in the subdivision of theology, illustrating his points by many instances from his experience in the library under his care. A discussion of the paper followed, in which Messrs. Merrill, Martel, Wire and Gates took part. Dr G. E. Wire fol- topic, Early libraries in Windham

lowed with a paper on Cataloging the Deering collection of mss. at Garrett Biblical institute, in which were embodied many hints on the general care of mss., and the proper way of binding, filing, and cataloging them. Mr Gates concluded the program of the evening with a talk on the history and development of the Hammond library, closing with a graceful welcome to the club, and the expression of the hope that this visit would not be the last. The report of the committee on editing the Union list of periodicals was then taken up. C. W. Andrews reported that all the libraries but one had now been heard from, and that the actual work of compiling the list could now be taken up; that the committee expected to call for the assistance of members in this work within a week-certainly within the month. A total of 15 libraries had sent their lists, and it seemed as if the scheme was now assured a successful consummation.

Connecticut.—The fall meeting of the library association was held at the State normal training school, Willimantic, on Oct. 27. A committee was appointed to devise plans for work which the association may profitably undertake, which will probably be of a bibliographical character. This committee consisted of the president, W. J. James, Middletown; W. K. Stetson, New Haven; Jonathan Trumbull, Norwich; M. A. Richardson, New London; Josephine Heydrich, Southport.

A committee was also appointed to prepare resolutions on the death of Justin Winsor: C. M. Hewins, Prof. A. Van Name, and the secretary.

A delightful paper full of reminiscences of the scholarly side of England, enlivened by sparkling bits of description of the pomp and circumstance with which the English librarians entertained their American guests this summer, was read by James L. Whitney, of the Boston public library.

In the afternoon a valuable historical paper was read by Ellen D. Larned, the historian of Windham county, on the

county. She placed the date of the first library in Windham county next to those of Yale, Lyme, and Guilford— It was called "The united English library for the propagation of Christian and useful knowledge; in the towns of Woodstock, Pomfret, Mortlake, Killingly, and west part of Thompson The venerable record book, bound in parchment, was shown at the Mary M. Osgood gave an acmeeting. count of the Abington library and particularly dwelt on the history of the Ladies' library, organized in 1804 by 17 young ladies. Hannah More, Jane Porter, Mrs Opie, Miss Edgeworth, Harriet Martineau, and Mrs Sigourney are some of the authors on the pages of their records. Up to 1870, 450 volumes had been acquired, when the Ladies' library joined with the Social library to form the present Abington library, in which are to be seen 100 of the original library bound in sheepskin from a local tannery, some of them 150 and 175 years old.

Prof. B. F. Koons, president of the Storrs agricultural college, gave a talk on Helpful reading for the agricultural classes. Incidentally he mentioned the following books: First principles of agriculture, Voorhees, Silver Burdett Household economics, Helen Campbell, G. P. Putnam; Home flori- Harvard university and president of culture, Vick, Rochester; Practical farm the American Library Association, the chemistry, Greiner, La Salle, N. Y.; What we did at cooking school, Virginia Reed, Am. Pub. Co.; The easiest ices to librarianship and to learning in way in housekeeping and cooking, Helen Campbell, Roberts; Story of the the head of his profession, he united in plants, Grant Allen; The realm of na- a remarkable degree the accurate and ture, Hugh R. Mill, Scribner; Milk and extended learning of the older generaits products, Henry S. Wing, Macmillan; Principles of fruit growing, L. H. Bailey, Macmillan; Weed on insects; the hour, which a Beet culture, A. J. Cook, Lansing, modern librarian. Mich.; A, B, C of bee culture, A. I. Root, His administrat Medina. For periodicals he commendrural New Yorker.

raised by Mr Koons' remarks was followed by a request for a list of "restful novels that end pleasantly." The list ulated other libraries. In the college

below was the result:

Lady Lee's widowhood, Stockton's stories, Lucy Guernsey's, Edward Garrett's, Emma Mandeville, Cranford, A week in a French country house (A. K. Sartorious); Off the skilligs, High lights (Mrs J. A. Fields); Lilac sunbonnet, Uncle Jack's executors, The country doctor (Jewett); A woodland wooing, Inside our gate, Sarah Tytler's stories.

Here a "modern" spoke up with the question, Does restful mean those that put you to sleep? Whereupon a few "restful" exciting titles came up: Into highways and hedges, Treasure island, An Aztec treasure house and Rolfe

Bolderwood's romances.

Adjourned to visit the Willimantic public library and the Dunham Hall li-ANGELINE SCOTT, Sec. brary.

Indiana-The sixth annual meeting of the library association of Indiana will be held in Indianapolis, Dec. 28-29, 1897. An interesting program has been provided for all, with special features for trustees.

Massachusetts-The library club held its annual meeting at Medford, October 26. The following resolution was adopted in regard to the death of Mr Winsor: Resolved, That on the death of Justin Winsor, LL. D., librarian of Massachusetts library club desires to express its sense of Dr Winsor's serv-America. Standing for many years at tion of librarians with the administrative force and understanding of the needs of the hour, which are demanded of the

His administration of both the Boston public library and the Harvard coled The country gentleman and The lege library has had its effect on libraries throughout the country. The pub-An informal discussion of questions lic library he brought into vital contact with the people to a degree not achieved before and in a way which has stimlibrary the influence of his liberal ad-

ministration has been not less important to the library and to college education. His readiness to meet the wants of the faculty and to administer the library in the interest of the elective system fostered a change in the methods these to three: Homer, presenting to us of study in the university which would the natural man; Dante, portraying man have been impossible without the co-

operation of the librarian.

As a bibliographer he worked in many lines, and as a historian he has set in order for other students the materials in the field which he made his own, and has had the good fortune to finish a well-rounded task, beginning with a history of his native town published nearly fifty years ago, followed by a history of the city which he served, and by a monumental work on the history of America, supplemented by the story of the geographical discovery of America, from the time of Columbus and his companions till the occupation of the continent was won.

So great was the respect for his judgment and position, that but few of the larger libraries of the country have not at some time sought his advice and profited by his counsel, always freely given to those who asked it. In his death we have lost a master and a

On recommendation of the committee it was voted that the executive committee be requested to provide that a suitable memorial paper be presented at the next meeting of the club.

The committee on lists of select fiction reported that the support promised did not warrant the club in undertaking

the continuance of the lists.

friend.

Prof. Charles Eliot Norton delivered an address upon The choice of books. He said that there was a close relation between the growth of democracy in the last few hundred years and the vast increase in the number of books published each year. Every man has confidence in his opinions, but few carry their education far enough to make their opinions of any real value. Of the great number of books published each year few have any permanent books of the year, lists of the titles havworth; hence the difficulty of selecting ing been previously distributed to mem-

books for a small library. It will help if we reflect how very few are the books actually necessary for an education. Mr Lowell said, not more than four or five, and I would be willing to reduce touched by the spiritual instincts of his nature; Shakespeare, painting human nature with insight and imagination, so that we can understand it better from his pages than from our own observation. From these and a very few others the essentials of a good and useful education can be got. It is the power of a book to discipline thought and character that gives it permanent value.

A few good reference books will enable the librarian to get rid of a deal of useless lumber. Foremost among good books stand the older poets, because through them one may receive guidance in life; they are, too, our chief sources for the nurture of the imagination. We must have some well-chosen histories, particularly of the older races from whom we are cut off, but from which we derive our civilization. We need comparatively few books on American history, and those such as will suggest principles worthy of application to the questions that come up every day in our government.

The library should have books of travel, and they should be selected for their literary merits as well as for their power to add to our knowledge of men and things. It is not necessary for the small library to buy largely of books in the sciences, in which good books are rare and soon become out of date.

The public library should be made a delightful place. Its walls should be adorned with engravings or photographs of the best works of art. Its books should be beautifully bound, for a good book should be treated with respect, and accorded an outside befitting its contents. Above all make the young people feel that the library is a pleasant place to come into.

Reports were then read upon the new

N. D. C. Hodges on science, in which field the speaker said, It is unwise for small public libraries to buy largely of text-books and the treatises, since these very soon become antiquated. As time did not permit the reports on art, literature, fiction, and juveniles to be heard, it was voted to continue the reports at the next meeting. The officers elected for the ensuing year are, president, Alice G. Chandler; vice presidents, W. L. R. Gifford, librarian of the Cambridge public library, and Miss C. A. Blanchard, librarian of the Weymouth public library; secretary, H. C. Wellman, of the Boston public library; treasurer, Miss A. L. Sargent, of the Medford public library.
WM. H. TILLINGHAST, Sec.

New Jersey-An all-day meeting of the library association was held at Rutgers college, New Brunswick, October 25.

After an address by President Scott, of the college, Prof. Richardson, of Princeton university, read a very valuable and practical paper on The purchase of books, which was followed by an animated discussion.

Frank P. Hill, of Newark, gave a very interesting account of the libraries visited on the A. L. A. European trip, and was followed by Arthur E. Bostwick, of the New York free circulating library, with a valuable paper on The management of branch libraries.

A delightful luncheon was tendered to the association by the college authorities, and time was given to inspect the various libraries and museums connected with the college and town.

The meeting was a very interesting and helpful one, and it was voted to hold more meetings during the year to keep alive the enthusiasm in library matters throughout the state.

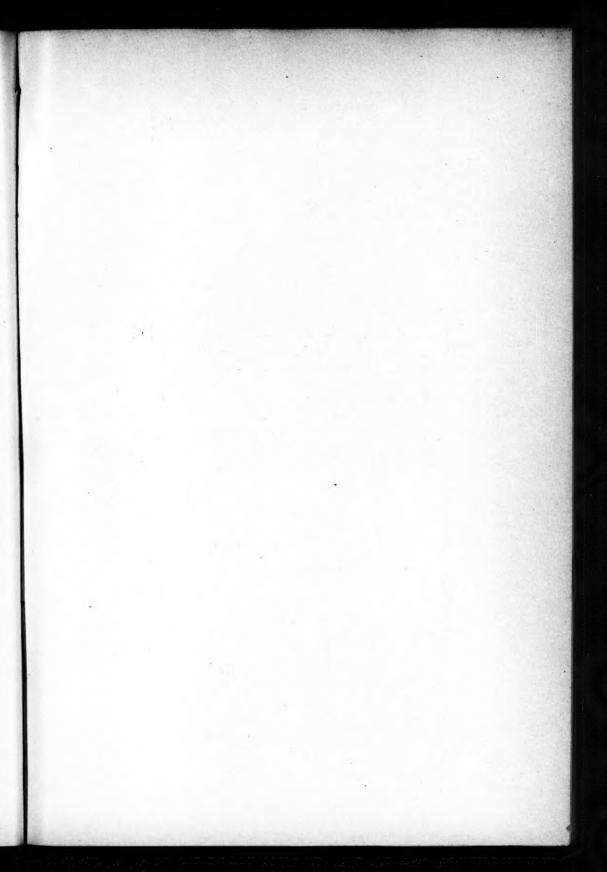
Ohio-The third annual meeting of the library association was held at Cincin-

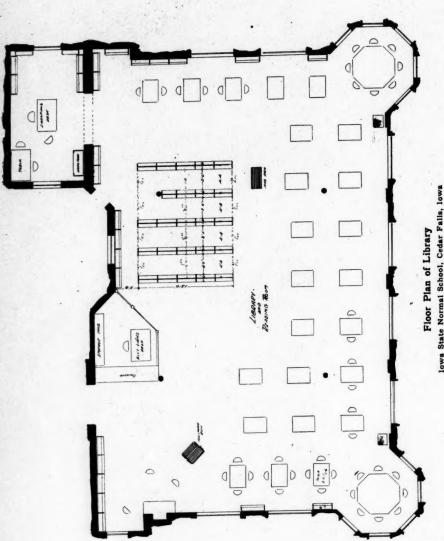
C. H. Morse spoke on education; nati, October 27-28. It was both in-G. T. Little on reference books; H. L. teresting and helpful in the subjects Koopman on philosophy; F. H. Hedge and discussions presented, while the on biography; W. E. Foster on history; J. utmost cordiality and good feeling pre-Ritchie, jr, on travels - a prolific subject vailed throughout. The arrangements this year; J. G. Brooks on social science; for the meeting were nearly all prepared by Librarian Whelpley, of Cincinnati, who was engaged every moment of the entire time of the stay of the librarians and visitors in providing for their comfort and pleasure. There was a fine representation of trustees, librarians, assistants, and others interested in library matters present at all the sessions. Nearly every phase of library work was taken up, and in that way something of interest for all present was presented.

Wednesday morning was given up to visiting places of interest. The party started out under the guidance of Mr Whelpley and Miss Field, who was adopted into the library profession last summer on the European trip, and after a pleasant trolley ride were put down at the Rookwood pottery. The party were shown through the estab-lishment, and the processes by which the exquisite ware is made were shown and explained. They were fortunate enough to see the opening of a kiln and the pieces taken therefrom. The store of beautiful vases, jars, cups, etc., was displayed, very small samples of which were taken away by a few of the visitors, while a large number, it is to be feared, did violence to the last commandment.

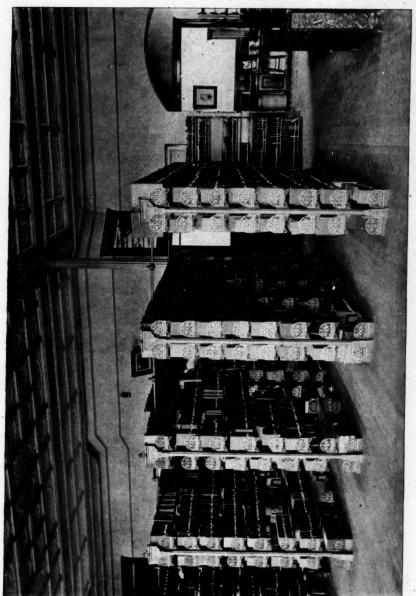
The art museum was visited next, and a pleasant hour was spent in viewing its treasures. An exhibition of the Western association of artists was on the walls in one of the galleries and gave much pleasure to the visitors.

The public library was next visited, and here the professional spirit was much in evidence in the questions and remarks, careful examinations and comparisons of methods, and in the interest manifested in all that was to be seen. The different departments were crowded with patrons, and Cincinnati certainly needs larger and better-adapted quarters in which to administer her li-

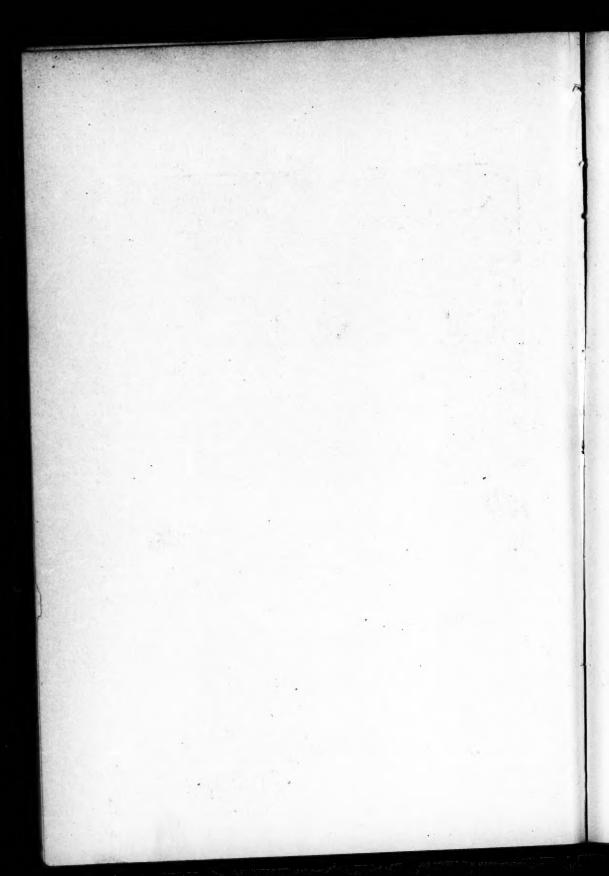




lowa State Normal School, Cedar Falls, lowa



L. B. Steel Stacks Iowa State Normal School, Cedar Falls, Iowa



very courteous in showing the visitors

The meeting opened promptly at 2 o'clock with an address by President Whelpley. He extended a graceful welcome to Cincinnati and its institu-He then reviewed at some length the literary history of the city as it is made up by the eminent men and women who at some time in their career lived there, and with most of whom he has had an intimate acquaintance. During a long and busy life among book people Mr Whelpley has accumulated a mine of interesting history concerning the literary world, much of which he told in a very entertaining way. He paid a glowing tribute to the librarian's profession and predicted great things for it in the future.

Mr Whelpley was followed by Mr Orr, of the Case library, Cleveland, who reported on public documents. He spoke particularly of the improvement in the collection and distribution of the documents under the direction of the State library commission. After several other reports, a paper on the work of the Ohio library commission was read by Rutherford P. Hayes, in which the work that had been done in the state library was reviewed, the plan of the traveling libraries was explained, and the needs for further work in the library systems of the state set forth. Invitations to visit the different libraries in the city were then extended to the association in a most cordial way by John Uri Lloyd and others.

Suitable resolutions on the death of

Justin Winsor were passed.

This was followed by an informal discussion of practical questions in library extension, which finally settled into a division of opinion as to whether the teacher or the librarian could best, under all circumstances, select the books for collateral reading by the pupils. This was participated in by Miss Browning, of Indianapolis, who gave an inter-

brary. Mr Whelpley and his staff were esting account of the establishment and administration of the branch libraries around and answering the fire of ques- in her city; Miss Doren, who spoke of tions that was constant during their their work with the schools of Dayton; Miss Eastman and others. The session closed at a late hour, with interest at full height and a large attendance.

A public meeting was held in the evening at the city library hall, at which addresses on the scope and purposes of public libraries were delivered by prominent citizens of Cincinnati, and a particularly fine address was given by Dr

Dan Milliken, of Dayton.

The session on Thursday morning opened with the report from the nominating committee, who presented the following names for the various offices, which were accepted by the association: President, Frank Conover, Dayton; first vice president, Mrs F. D. Germain, Toledo; secretary, Charles Orr, Cleveland; treasurer, Martin Hensel, Columbus; member of executive committee, A. W. Whelpley, Cincinnati.

The question of a place of meeting for next year then came up. Invitations were presented from Columbus by Olive Jones, librarian of state university, from Toledo by Robinson Locke, trustee of the public library, and from Dayton by Frank Conover, trustee of public library. Each presented the attractions of the respective cities and assured the association of a warm welcome. The vote showed a majority in favor of Dayton. The college section was then given the time for a session, and led by Librarian Root of Oberlin college, assisted by Miss Jones of the state university, held a very interesting discussion on reference books for college libraries. The range of discussion covered philosophy, theology, sociology, language, literature, science, applied arts, fine art, history, biography and travel. It was both interesting and profitable.

The afternoon failed to bring the delightful weather which had been favoring the visitors thus far in their stay in Cincinnati, but with great pleasure they prepared to enjoy the trolley ride which was tendered through the kindness

of Mr Whelpley. Parlor cars gayly trimmed with flying flags drew up in front of the hotel, and the party soon found themselves comfortably fixed and gliding through the principal streets of the host and hostess with regret. city. The way led to the hilltops, and the sensation of going up the incline was not altogether pleasurable as the citizens of Cincinnati related the number and extent of the accidents which have occurred on the line. The dense smoke which hung over the city prevented a very satisfactory view when the hilltops were finally reached, but the autumn beauty of Walnut Hills, Avondale, and Clifton, with their clean streets and lovely homes, more than made up the loss. The round of the line was finally made and the party were set down at the hotel, delighted with the trip and much more favorably impressed with Cincinnatias a dwelling place than they were before starting.

The final session of the meeting was convened on the assembling of the party at 3 30, and several interesting papers were read. Conduct of a small library, by Eliza G. Browning, gave some plain, practical suggestions for beginners; Library advertising, by Miss Pierce, of Cleveland, was in the line of the successful work that is being done there. Some needs of the library workers, a paper by Miss Mills, of Dayton, and Library training for the public, by Miss Toler, of Columbus, were both good.

After dinner the visitors gathered at the delightful home of Mr and Mrs Whelpley, at Clifton, where they were cordially welcomed and royally entertained. Their beautiful Arden, as it is called, is full of beautiful, curious, and noted things gathered in a long and prominent career among book people, artists, authors, and travelers, and time was all too short to take in the rare treat spread out before the guests. very interesting papers left over from the afternoon were read by Miss Eastman and Miss Doren, and short talks were given by two of the trustees of the Cincinnati library, who spoke of the impetus given by the association to library matters. Some lovely singing

by a Cincinnati artist was listened to with great pleasure. A delicious supper was served. The party lingered till a late hour, and saw the last of their

### Library Schools Illinois State library school

F. W. Faxon, of the Boston Book Company, visited the school November 5, and gave a very interesting talk on a bookseller's experience in buying old files and missing numbers of periodicals.

A library club has been organized which is to meet every third week at the home of the director. It is to be very informal in administration and rules, having no officers but an executive committee of three, and leaving the membership open to admit in future outsiders specially interested. At present the members are the library school and staff and the staff of the public library of Champaign.

The following subjects have been chosen for theses by members of the senior class: Debatable land in children's literature; American publishers' series, a critical estimate; Library bulletins; School library manual; The value of experience in a bookstore to a trained librarian; The value of library training to a professional bookseller; The history of public libraries in Illinois.

The library has just closed an exhibit of its new books, the first of a series, to be given whenever an invoice is received; a part of the stack has been fitted as a work room for the library class, with tables for stamping, embossing, labeling, etc.; it is here that the new books are kept, and visitors who come to examine them have the opportunity also of observing some of the work of the library class,

#### New York State library school

Henrietta Church, class of '93, has resigned her position in the Utica public library and has sailed for England, where she will remain a year.

Florence S. Rogers, class of '98 (undergraduate); is substitute librarian at the Lancaster (Mass.) public library.

### Notes by the Way

The position of the librarian's office and the work rooms for the staff will depend greatly upon the size of the li-In small libraries the librarian should be close to the delivery desk of the lending department, for it is there that his advice and opinion will be chiefly in request. In larger libraries, where a greater portion of the librarian's time is of necessity taken up with the administrative duties of his position, it will not be possible for him to come into close personal contact with the readers, but he should be so placed as to be readily available when wanted. -F. J. Burgovne.

Trustees should select a librarian in whom they have confidence, and give him that confidence in full measure. Hold him responsible for the results. Do not hamper him by interfering in the details of administration. The burden of building up the library and of making for it a good name and a powerful influence where it should be felt must rest mainly upon the librarian.—

I. N. Larned.

The man or youth who idly saunters into a public library may and does begin to feel that the place possesses privileges which bring pleasure and true relaxation in his life, and he gradually begins to value them accordingly. He cannot get harm from what he reads, and the chances lie in the probability of their getting something of an opposite character.—Thomas Greenwood.

One of the chief attractions of a reading room is the freedom to handle the papers and magazines without the intervention of an assistant. If every number has to be receipted for, so much less must be the attraction of the room. It is better to let statistics go, sometimes, than to hinder the good work the library might be doing.—Mary W. Plummer.

A list of qualifications for library trustees reads as follows: Sound character, good judgment and common sense, public spirit, capacity for work, literary taste, representative fitness.—C: C. Soule.

### **Ouestions and Answers**

Q. 23. Where would a pamphlet concerning the anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol at Washington, D. C., classify? I have put it under 394.4, but am not satisfied therewith.

A. The rule in classifying is to put it wherever it would be most likely to be most useful to the people using the library. It would seem under ordinary circumstances that such a work as you speak of would be most useful in a history or description of Washington city, and therefore would come under 975.3.

Q. 24. When will another internation-

al conference be held?

A. There is no definite time for holding such meetings. A meeting to be held in Florence, Italy, in 1899 or 1900, was discussed by some of the delegates from the continent at the recent London meeting.

Q. 25. What is an easy way of taking account of the books in the library?

A. Careful work is hardly ever easy. But choose a time when there is least demand at the library for books. Have some one find the books as you call them from your shelf list. Note all the books not on the shelf. If they have been taken by a borrower the records of the office will show it, and all such may be counted in. Those which cannot be accounted for nor found should be listed and the shelves watched for them, as it often happens they will put in an unexpected appearance.

Q. 27. Can one get instruction in cataloging by mail from any of the library

schools?

A. A satisfactory answer can better be obtained by addressing the directors of the several schools and stating explicitly what is wanted.

Q. 26. What is needed in making a shelf list?

A. Index size shelf-list cards, drawers or case with rod and lid, and a small blank book for recording books missing at time of inventory, in material, and a careful, accurate person to do the work.

### Rhymes with a Reason

Out from the harbor of Boston we sailed, With our prow set for England so bright;

From states of the East and the West had we hailed.

And each bore the red, blue, and white.

To Liberty's Goddess first honor was due,

But Minerva stood close by her side; For to search after wisdom had the A. L. A. crew

Fared forth o'er the ocean so wide.

Our brothers in knowledge we were ready to meet;

Our kindred we'd know by their names,

And Hannah P. J. her own fam'ly would greet

When she reached the court of St. James.

The Abbot of Thurston awaited Queen Bess;

In Kent would a Davis be found; Of Jones in Wales there were plenty, I guess,

And there Wildmen were said to abound.

The lit'rary hash was sure to be *Dunn*, For the committee would do it up *Brown*.

And if we were Sharp we'd soon find the fun;

'T was prepared by a Clark of renown.

Through Fields that were Dewey, and Lanes broad and narrow

We wandered o'er England's fair Lea. The heavenly Speck led us straight as an arrow

In the wake of the thick and thin C—.

On Avon's fair Bank we soon lingered to

Of sweet nectar its *Flower* distills, Then after our *Ward*-ens most gayly we trip,

Or Savage-ly climb the mild hills.

To the island of *Mann* we would some of us go;

Of its wonders we've oft "Ahe(a)rn tell,"

And the Fowler still lurks in its caves dark and low,

Where our *Chivers* we scarcely can quell.

We Chase on to Plymouth, where gleams on our sight

The good Ship each Ames now to Win; Her Hull rises clear and we know she's all Wright,

With the Cutter to conduct us within.

Soon toward our own country our vessel is turned;

She's freighted with wisdom galore. And best cargo of all is this—we have learned

That seas may divide us, but we're one at the core.

F. F.

### News from the Library Field

A new public library has been started at Woodbury, Conn.

Isabel D. Fielden has béen elected assistant librarian of Amesbury, Mass.

A new hotel in Boston has fitted up a library of 2500 books for the use of its guests.

The new public library at South Hadley Falls will open to the public Dec. 1, with about 2000v.

Thomaston, Me., will receive \$13,000 by the will of the late George Fuller, for a public library.

The Dyer library, of Saco, Me., is putting in branch libraries in different sections of the town.

By the will of J. J. Whitney, Winchester, Conn., received ground on which to build a library.

The late Egbert Starr, of New York, by his will left \$50,000 for a library for Middlebury (Vt.) college.

The public library of Willimantic, Conn., reports a circulation of 16,030v.; no. of books in library, 4556.

has issued an annotated catalog of its music, which it sells at 10 cents.

A gift of \$200 was given to the library of Wellesley college by the editors of the Wellesley Magazine, out of the proceeds of the magazine.

The public library of Norwich, Vt., was burned Oct. 20. The library contained 3000v., nearly all of which were saved, though damaged by water.

Mrs Morrill Frost has made an offer of \$10,000 to the town of Winthrop, Mass., for a public library, on condition that a like sum is raised by the citizens.

Anna H. Ward has been elected librarian of Harris institute, Woonsocket, R. I., to succeed Miss Metcalf, who has gone to Brown university as reference librarian.

E. M. Phelps, of Chicago, has given \$6000 for a public library building to Stonington, Conn., on condition that the town will buy the lot and give \$11,-000, the income of which shall be used to maintain the library.

Florence E. Whitcher, of Lexington, Mass., was elected librarian of the public library of Manchester, N. H. Whitcher has been in the Carey library of Lexington 13 years, and for 10 years was at the head of the institution.

At a meeting of the directors of the Springfield (Mass.) public library on November 17, John Cotton Dana, of Denver, was elected librarian to succeed the late Dr Rice. He is expected to take charge the first of the year.

Mayor A. C. Houghton, of North Adams, has given that city \$10,000 with which to fit up the Houghton memorial library building which he gave to the city a year ago as a memorial of his brother, A. J. Houghton, of Boston.

W: C. Todd, of Atkinson, N. H., has given \$50,000 to the Boston public library for a permanent fund, the proceeds of which shall be devoted to buying current newspapers for the library. Mr Todd has for several years given 3750 over September, 1897.

The Brookline (Mass.) public library money to buy papers from all over the world, and this last offer places the matter on a permanent basis.

#### Central Atlantic

The Congressional library is to have a department for the blind.

A library league among the children has been started in Braddock, Pa.

Belle Holston has been elected librarian of the Depford institute, Woodbury, N. J.

Middleton, N. Y., has received \$30,000 for a public library, by the will of Mrs. Thrall, of that city.

Irene W. Bullock has been appointed head cataloger of the public library, Utica, N. Y., to succeed Miss Church.

The public library of Utica, N. Y., has been having an exhibition of the Soule photographs for the past month.

Librarian Hill, of Newark, N. J., has started five traveling libraries of 20v. each among the fire-engine houses in that city.

The jury of award gave the preference to the designs furnished by Carrere & Hastings, of New York, for the New York public library.

There is some talk of uniting the New York free circulating library with the New York public library. A report on the subject will be made in Decem-

Silas A. Berry was presented with a very fine microscope by his friends in the Brooklyn Y. M. C. A., Nov. 6, as a mark of their appreciation of his work while librarian.

Buffalo public library has distributed some very excellent reading lists prepared by Mrs H. L. Elmendorf on American history for young folks, and Good short stories.

Bessie S. Smith, librarian of Harlem, (N. Y.) public library, reports the circulation for October, the second month of the free library, to be 11,100, an increase of 8100 over October, 1896, and An effort is being made to raise the tax levy for the Buffalo public library one-tenth mill, which will give an additional \$20,000 a year to the library. The number of books in the library is not large enough to supply the demand.

The test made of the means for carrying books between the Congressional library and the Capitol proved them a success. The average time it takes to send the message and get the book is about nine minutes. The distance covered is about 13,000 ft., and the speed is about 600 ft. a minute.

The largest libraries in New York state are the following: New York, public library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden foundations, 267,808; Mercantile library, 253,783; New York state library, Albany, 223,547; Columbia university library, New York city, 223,000; Cornell university library, Ithaca, 186,683; Brooklyn library, 124,299; Mechanics' and tradesmen's library, New York city, 106,440.

Helen Sperry, librarian of the Carnegie library at Braddock, Pa., has resigned her position to accept the librarianship of the new Carnegie library at Homestead. The library board of Braddock releases Miss Sperry with regret, and speaks in highest terms of her work there. Walter Crane, of Joliet, Ill, has been elected supervisor of the library and clubhouse. Elizabeth Wales will have direct charge of the library.

The Congressional library was opened to the use of the public, November 1. Nothing formal was done in the way of opening. The first book called for was not in the library. The second book called for, and the first taken from the shelves by a reader, was Martha Lamb's History of New York city. This was called for by Max West, of Washing-The first book to be called for by a woman was Lady Eastlake's Journals and Letters. The application card was signed by Miss Pike, of Washington. About 150 books were asked for during the day. Everything worked smoothly. The library building has been open for

inspection for a year, but the business of the library has been suspended for three months. This interruption was made necessary by the transfer of the books from the old home of the library in the Capitol to the new building. While the library is ready for the public, there is still some work to be done before all its many divisions are in complete order.

Central

The John Crerar library, of Chicago, will hereafter be open in the evenings till 10 o'clock.

Havana, Ill., has voted \$1200 for a public library and the citizens have subscribed \$1000.

Mrs Caroline Liddall has presented 200 valuable books on scientific subjects to the Morrison-Reeves library, of Richmond, Ind.

Jennie B. Jessup, formerly librarian of Laporte, Ind., is engaged in classifying and cataloging the Ladies' association library of Westville, Ind.

The Chicago public library staff has organized a round table for social enjoyment and the study of library problems.

Josephine P. Cleveland, for many years librarian of the Illinois historical society, died at her home in Springfield, Nov. 9, after a protracted illness.

Charles Martel, for several years at the Newberry library in Chicago, has gone into the catalog department of the Congressional library, at Washington.

The popularity and usefulness of the public school library of Columbus, O., have doubled in the last six months by means of the traveling library system started by Librarian Hensel.

After considerable discussion of the subject, the Chicago library board decided, Nov. 12, that the circulating department of the public library should be kept open hereafter on Sundays. The reading rooms have been kept open for a long time.

The public library of Terre Haute,

and a new card catalog made. The twobook system was introduced Nov. I. The work is being done under the supervision of Librarian Cunningham, of the State normal school.

The public library of Quincy, Ill., has adopted the plan of buying an extra number of copies of popular novels and giving them out to readers on payment of five cents a reading. The plan works well, and in every case so far the books have paid for themselves without drawing on the regular book fund. This library is doing excellent work with the public schools.

The library league of Cleveland numbers 12,000, made up mostly of school children. A public meeting of its members was held Nov. 6, and Music Hall was not large enough to hold half of those who came. Speeches were made by Judge Hutchins, president of the board, and Mr Brett. A library league song written by Miss Glazier was sung by the children, and other music followed. Stereopticon views of the principal libraries of the country were shown and explained. Everyone connected therewith speaks in the highest praise of the league and its work.

The Scoville institute library, of Oak Park, Ill., is growing rapidly in popularity and efficiency under the work of Cornelia Marvin, librarian. The Daughters of the revolution have adopted the colonial history department, the Civic league has taken the political economy, the Art club the art department, and several of the women's clubs have pledged themselves to care for the replenishing of the particular departments which hold the books on the subject they are pursuing. December o the library will have a library reception day, when the whole institution will be thrown open to the public for their inspection.

Mrs H. R. Galliner, librarian emeritus of the Withers public library of Bloomington, Ill., died at her home in that city, Tuesday, Oct. 19. Mrs Galliner 812 Broadway

Ind., is being reclassified by the D. C. was born in Chester county, Pa. In 1865 she became a resident of Bloomington, and in 1867, under the organization of the Ladies' library association of the city, as the Bloomington library association, was elected librarian and was unanimously reëlected each succeeding year, until June, 1895, when on account of ill health she was compelled to resign the position she had filled so efficiently, and yet with so many sacrifices to herself, for more than 27 years.

In accepting her resignation, the trustees adopted resolutions of regret and sympathy, in which they testify in high terms of her ability, bestowing upon her the title of librarian emeritus.

She was a member of the American Library Association from 1878 to her death.

Accommodating, helpful, friendly, she won the confidence, love, and respect of old and young alike. Her life's work and influence have reared for her an everlasting monument in this community.

#### South

The report of Librarian Beer, of the Fiske library in New Orleans, reviews the work done since the opening of the library, Sept. 16, 1896. In this time 11,500 books have been classified, 32,-000 books have been labeled and placed on the shelves, and 25,488v. have been circulated.

### West

The Wyoming legislative assembly in 1896 passed an act giving 15,000 acres of land for the maintenance of a miscellaneous state library. The rent of these lands yields \$800 a year for books, and they are organizing the library, which is under the direction of the justices of the supreme court, on the basis of the A. L. A catalog.

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### Library Bureau Department

The widespread activity in library furnishings these days shows that the missionary efforts which have been put forth for several years are bearing fruit. In every quarter in the middle West there is work of more or less proportion, toward making accessible the books of libraries by means of arrangement and labor-saving appliances. This is particularly true of libraries in connection with schools, colleges, normals, and universities.

The university of Louisiana, at Baton Rouge, has also been reclassified by the D. C., and has received a Library Bureau card-catalog outfit.

The university of New Mexico at Albuquerque has been classified by the D. C. A shelf list has been made and a new card catalog is under way.

The public school library of Florence, Wis., has added a new catalog case and the library will be cataloged on cards under the supervision of Prof. Hayes.

The university of Texas, at Austin, has been reclassified on the D. C. plan. A new card catalog is under way, for which the latest improvement in L. B. cases will be provided.

The State normal school at Ypsilanti, Mich., has been obliged to extend its shelf room. The old wooden shelving was removed and replaced with Library Bureau steel stacks, giving a capacity for 20,000v.

The rapid growth of the Ohio State university, and consequent increase of space required for readers, has led to the addition of seven new tables. These are made after the pattern of those originally designed by the Library Bureau some years ago, no change save the omission of slides being found necessary.

Oberlin college library is preparing a new shelf list on cards, under the direction of its librarian, A. S. Root. This list will be kept in a number of 96 tray cases, which are being especially made by the Library Bureau. A new form of lock rod and an entirely new and clever plan of saving space in height of case will be features of interest.

The Bradley Polytechnic institute of Peoria, Ill., has already begun its work, although the buildings are not yet finished. The manual training department has been fitted up by the Library Bureau with work benches, tool lockers, drawing-board cases, model cases, and a very complete outfit of requirements for such a school, all the details being designed by Director C: A. Bennett.

The library at Ferry Hall, Lake Forest university, Ill., has been reclassified and cataloged on cards by Marie A. Skinner, a student of the New York library school. A 12-tray cabinet with handsome base will hold the catalog. In addition to other supplies a special stepladder of artistic design was made for them. This library is now being conducted according to the latest and most approved methods.

The new biological building of the university of Chicago has just been completed and the Library Bureau has completed the work of fitting up the various rooms with instrument cases, bookcases, investigators' tables, student desks, and the various fixtures necessary for experiments. The character of the lecture room is noticeable as being the finest in the university. The furniture and blackboards, etc., were specially designed and fitted into this lecture room, as the great popularity of the department makes it necessary to give all the space possible for the student.

Who Owned It?—Volume 25 of Nature, cloth bound and having a library number in it, and evidently belonging at some time to a library, has been found among some books lately come into my possession. Anyone interested can find particulars by addressing

JOHN WILKINSON, 142 Kinzie st., Chicago

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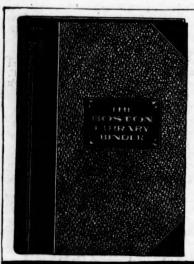
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